

All changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are to be embraced within their scope.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for recovering a failed print task comprising:
monitoring a print system for a print task failure;
saving a failed print task when a print task failure
occurs;

5 monitoring said print system for a successful print
task;
resending said saved, failed print task to a printer
to which said successful print task was sent.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said monitoring for a
print task failure, said saving, said monitoring for a successful print task
and said resending are controlled by a print system component.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said print system
component is a print processor.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said print system
component is a spooler.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said resending only
occurs when said printer to which said successful print task was sent is
the same printer as the one to which the failed print task was sent.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising determining the characteristics of said successful print task and said failed print task and comparing said successful print task characteristics to said failed print task characteristics to determine the availability of a compatible
5 printer for said failed print task and wherein said resending only occurs when said printer is compatible with said failed print task.

7. A method for recovering a failed print task comprising:
monitoring a print system for a print task failure;
saving a failed print task when a print task failure
occurs;

5 monitoring said print system for a successful print
task;

analyzing said successful print task characteristics
to determine the capability of the printer to
which said successful print task was sent;

10 evaluating said printer's capability to determine
whether said printer can print said failed print
task;

resending said saved, failed print task to said
printer if said printer is capable of printing
said failed print task.

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8. The method of claim 7 wherein said evaluating
comprises comparing the characteristics of said successful print task to
the characteristics of said failed print task.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein said evaluating
comprises comparing the capability of said printer to the requirements of
said failed print task.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein said evaluating comprises determining the location of said printer from said successful print task data and querying said printer for its capabilities and comparing said printer capabilities with the requirements of said failed
5 print task.

11. A method for recovering a failed print task comprising:
monitoring a print system for a print task failure;
prompting a user to prioritize a failed print task
when a print task failure occurs;
5 saving said failed print task when its priority is
sufficiently high;
monitoring said print system for a successful print
task;
10 analyzing said successful print task characteristics
to determine the capability of the printer to
which said successful print task was sent;
evaluating said printer's capability to determine
whether said printer can print said failed print
task;
15 prompting said user to choose to reprint said failed
print task if said printer is capable of printing
said failed print task; and
resending said saved, failed print task to said
printer if said user has chosen to reprint said
failed print task.
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12. A method for recovering a failed print task comprising:

monitoring a print system for a print task failure;

saving said failed print task;

monitoring said print system for a successful print

5 task;

analyzing said successful print task characteristics

to determine the capability of the printer to

which said successful print task was sent;

evaluating said printer's capability to determine

10 whether said printer can print said failed print

task;

modifying said failed print task to allow printing

on said printer when said print task cannot

otherwise be printed on said printer; and

15 sending said modified, failed print task to said

printer.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said modifying

comprises emulating at least one element of said print task in software

that would otherwise have been performed by printer hardware.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein said modifying

comprises emulating page formatting in software.

15. A system for recovering a failed print task comprising:

5 a first monitor for monitoring a print system for a print task failure;

storage for saving a failed print task when a print

task failure occurs;

10 a second monitor for monitoring said print system for a successful print task;

an analyzer for analyzing said successful print task characteristics to determine the capability of the printer to which said successful print task was sent;

15 an evaluator for evaluating said printer's capability to determine whether said printer can print said failed print task;

 a sender for resending said saved, failed print task to said printer if said printer is capable of printing said failed print task.

16. A computer readable medium comprising instructions for performing functions within a print system component, said instructions comprising the acts of:

5 monitoring a print system for a print task failure;
saving a failed print task when a print task failure
occurs;

10 monitoring said print system for a successful print
task;

15 analyzing said successful print task characteristics
to determine the capability of the printer to
which said successful print task was sent;
evaluating said printer's capability to determine
whether said printer can print said failed print
task;

20 resending said saved, failed print task to said
printer if said printer is capable of printing
said failed print task.

17. A computer data signal embodied in an electronic transmission, said signal having the function of recovering failed print tasks, said signal comprising instructions for:

monitoring a print system for a print task failure;

5 saving a failed print task when a print task failure

occurs;

monitoring said print system for a successful print task;

10 to determine the capability of the printer to
which said successful print task was sent;

evaluating said printer's capability to determine whether said printer can print said failed print task;

15 resending said saved, failed print task to said
printer if said printer is capable of printing
said failed print task.